7: Gamble S-5 (1926-1927) 1933 AF12 North China AF12

WATER

"Peiping's running water runs around in carts," is a local saying, as the water supply of most families is brought to their gates in large wooden wheelbarrows and is then carried into the houses in buckets. Water under pressure is available from the mains of the Peiping Water Company in a large part of the city, but the cost of plumbing puts it beyond the reach of the poorer families. The distribution of water is evidently a monopoly firmly held by the water carriers' gild, most of whom were originally natives of Shantung province. It is reported that the gild has a membership of some 2,500 men. In many cases, the privilege of supplying water to the people of a given district is the property of one man. He can lease or sell the privilege and even leave it to his children.[17] One of the families included in our study received $17 a month for the rent of a water district.

Most of the water is drawn from surface wells, though some of the carriers get their supply from the hydrants of the water company. The retail price of water was 1 cent for two bucketfuls, but many of the regular users contracted for their supply on a monthly basis. The amount delivered to some families paying 15 cents a month was approximately 420 liters per month.[18] For many of our families, the price of water was fixed in terms of copper, rather than silver. There were regular monthly payments of 30, 50, 60, 70, 75, 90, 120, and 180 coppers. Other families, if they paid a regular monthly minimum, must have purchased varying additional

[17] No. 17. [18] No. 39.

8: Lin E-5 (1927)1928 AF12 North China AF12

who fail to observe the rules of order and cleanliness. The rewards vary from one to five dollars, while the fines, only from 5 to 30 cents. The fines are not collected by the factory but are reserved for buying, at a later date, things that are needed in the rooms on which fines have been imposed. This system of rewards and fines is said to have worked quite satisfactorily. And our investigation well supports this view, for during the stay of the investigator in the factory, always he found the rooms well kept. 362 356 466

Workers having families are not provided with free lodging by the factory. As workmen who brought families to Tangku have greatly increased in recent years, the factory bought in 1926 35 rooms which have been let out to them on very reasonable terms. Again, in the summer of 1927, a group of new houses of about 33 rooms was built by the factory for the accommodation of workers' families. Some more new houses, it is said, will be put up with a view to forming in the future a Chiu Ta Community in Tangku. The factory charges only 50 to 80 cents per room as monthly rent which is barely enough for its annual repairing. Such expenses as building a doorway or walls are borne by the factory. 362 466

Water Supply.—There has never been any fresh water-supply at Tangku. Fresh water is brought over from a long distance and at a high price. It was the Chiu Ta Factory that first opened two artesian wells and furnished cold and boiled water to its resident workers. In 1927, when the price of fresh water soared up, the use of the well water was also granted to the workers who had families with them. The quantity of water each family may consume is limited according to its size. 365 466

Fuel and Light.—The resident workers are provided with electric light and heating, free of charge. Workers having families are denied this benefit, but wood shavings in the factory are distributed to them free. Again, in the east section coal dust is sold to the workers having families at 25 cents per 100 catties, while in the west section it is simply thrown away, so that those who want it may pick the same up. 354 466

8: Lin E-5 (1927)1928 AF12 North China AF12

on the part of the factory. It is hoped that when the new dormitory is completed, the workers might find a better environment to live in.

Food, Fuel and Light.—As far as possible, every facility is accorded by the factory to its workers, in order to make their living comfortable. A few of these facilities may now be mentioned. There is an artesian well drilled by the factory and fresh water from the well is distributed free to the various residential quarters of the workers. Stoves and coal that are needed in the worker's quarters in the winter are also provided by the factory. For meals, workers have the option of using the dining room of the Chiu Ta dormitory or doing their own cooking. In the former case tickets for buying meals are advanced to the workers, the value of which is deducted from their pay at the end of the month. In the latter case, stoves, coal and other cooking facilities are furnished. A third alternative adopted by some workers is to form a group whose members agree to have their meals provided by a special cook. In this case, both the cooking service and coal for the fire are provided free by the factory. There were at the time of the investigation two groups of this kind in existence. The one in Residence B consisted of about thirty members, each of whom paid about $6.50 a month for food. The kitchen service was supervised by the workers who served in groups of two by rotation. In Residence C, about twenty workers formed a group and each paid about $5.50 a month for food. A committee composed of the representatives of all the rooms in the residence supervised the kitchen service, but, in fact, the work was delegated to its chairman alone.

Sanitary Conditions.—As the Factory Hospital is a cooperative enterprise of Chiu Ta and the Pacific Alkali Works, workers belonging to the latter are, therefore, accorded the same treatment in the hospital as those of the former. Facilities for hair-cutting and bathing are also afforded the Pacific workers at the Chiu Ta barber shop and bath room. Arrangement has been made by the factory with a bath house in the town where the Pacific workers may take baths at regular intervals, free of charge. The bath is regularly frequented by them.